FOURTH DAY.—*Thursday, 9th June 1932.*

The House re-assembled at 12 NOON.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.—(*Continued*).

MESSRS. SAVANDAIYA and R. DEVAIYA (Mysore Taluk); B. SIDDALINGA SETTY and B. CHENNAPPA (Yedatore Taluk); H. V. HANUMANTHA SETTY and H. R. T. RAJAGOPALA MUDALIAR (Hunsur Taluk); C. DASAPPA and B. LINGE GOWDA (Heggadadevankote Taluk); PUTTAMADAPPA (Nanjangud Taluk); PATEL PUTTASAMAIYA and K. V. VEERANNA (Chamarajnagar Taluk); PATEL SUBBANNA (Gundlupet Taluk); T. S. SADASIVAMURTHY and B. S. PUTTASWAMY (T.-Narsipur Taluk); K. NAGANNA (Yelandur Taluk); S. C. MALLIAH, M. C. LINGE GOWDA and H. HONNAIYA (Mandya Taluk); H. K. MADAIYA and PUTTASAMI GOWDA (Malvalli Taluk); K. M. KRISHNAPPA GOWDA and T. M. KAPANI GOWDA (Nagamangala Taluk); A. LINGEGOWDA and C. MARI GOWDA (Krishnarajpet Taluk); SIVANANJE GOWDA and KULLEGOWDA (Seringapatam Taluk); IBRAHIM KHAN (Hunsur Municipality); MUDLAGIRI GOWDA (Malavalli Municipality); VENKATASUBBA SETTY (Chamarajnagar Municipality); M. SUBBAIYA (Seringapatam Municipality); RAO BAHADUR DHARMAPRAKASA D. BANUMIAH (Mysore City Municipality); S. THIMME GOWDA, H. C. DASAPPA and N. SIDDALINGADEVARU (Special Interests); T. MARIAPPA, MAHOMED SAIT, K. IBRAHIM KHAN, RANGADASAIYA, M. C. CHELUVAIYA and D. VENKATASETTY (Minority Interests).—

Q.—9. Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) Whether the Government were not pleased to state that the State Fund toll gates would be abolished from July 1932?

(*b*) Whether the dates have not since been fixed and notified in the *Gazette* for the sale of the right of collecting the toll at the said gates during the year 1932-33?

(*c*) While there is income to Government from the tax on petrol, will it not be a double levy on the people if toll is also levied?

GENERAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.—

A:—*9*. (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The report of the Toll Committee is under consideration.

Supplementary Questions and Answers:

Mr. K. V. Veeranna.—

With reference to answer to Sub-Section (*a*), did not the Government call for the views of the local bodies on the desirability of abolishing the toll gates?

General Secretary to Government.—

Yes, but they were not told that Government had made up their mind about abolishing the toll gates.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

Is it not more than a year since the Toll Committee recommended the abolition of toll gates?

Second Member of Council.—

Yes, and their report is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

In British India, have they not abolished the toll gates almost simultaneously with the levy of petrol tax? And is it not a hardship to levy both here?

Second Member of Council.—

There is no connection between these two taxes. The income from the petrol tax goes to the Road Fund and that from the tolls goes to the general revenues.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

When a new source of income from the enhanced duty on petrol which is equivalent to the receipts from tolls has

been obtained, is it not right that the people should be exempt from paying the toll gate fees ?

Second Member of Council.—

The recommendation of the Toll Committee is to abolish the toll gates and alongside of it, to impose a tax on motor vehicles which would give an equivalent revenue, and to do this, we have to take certain legislative action after consulting the Civil and Military Station authorities.

Mr. M. C. Linge Gowda.—

Is it not a fact that Government gets about Rs. 2 lakhs annually from the Government of India from the enhanced petrol tax?

Second Member of Council.—

Yes.

Mr. M. C. Linge Gowda.—

Then, why should you recover the toll gate fees ?

Second Member of Council.—

There is no relationship between the petrol tax and the toll gate fees. The petrol tax goes for the improvement of what are called arterial roads and the tolls for the maintenance of communications. If we abolish the toll gates, a new tax will have to be imposed.

Mr. M. C. Linge Gowda.—

We have to pay the tolls and petrol tax. Is it not a double levy ?

Second Member of Council.—

Yes. We want to do away with toll gates as far as possible.

Mr. Mahomed Imam.—

Will the District Fund toll gates also be abolished ?

Second Member of Council.—

Yes.

Mr. K. A. Rahim.—

Is it not the idea to do away with bridge tolls also ?

Second Member of Council.—

We cannot say. We will note the suggestion.

Mr. L. Vema Reddy.—

Do you distribute the 2 lakhs of rupees derived from petrol tax among the District Boards?

Second Member of Council.—

That point does not arise. The subject is about the State Fund toll gates. The income from petrol tax is to be used for trunk roads only.

Mr. L. Vema Reddy.—

What is the justification for it?

Second Member of Council.—

The Government of India have imposed the tax on that condition.

Mr. L. Vema Reddy.—

Are Government aware that the traffic on District Fund roads is heavier and that the buses running over them also consume petrol?

Second Member of Council.—

May be.

Mr. L. Vema Reddy.—

Then is it not just to give a share of the income to the District Boards also?

Second Member of Council.—

It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. Bagamane Deva Gowda.—

Did not the Government promise to do away with the newly opened toll gates as soon as the petrol tax was enhanced?

Second Member of Council.—

The two have really no connection.

Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Iyengar.—

Is not the object of levying tolls to maintain the roads in proper repairs?

Second Member of Council.—

Yes.

Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Iyengar.—

Before the levy of the petrol tax, you were getting only Rs. 1,60,000 from the toll gates. Whereas from the budget it is seen that Rs. 2 lakhs are expected as your share of the petrol tax from the Government of India, who expect you to use it for the improvement of roads. Thus you get more income now. Then, why should you continue the toll gates?

Second Member of Council.—

There are two sources of income for the Road Fund even in British India, *viz.*, the petrol tax and the enhanced license fees on motor vehicles. So we, here, have also to increase the license fees on motor cars and buses before abolishing the toll gates. That is the recommendation of the committee.

Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Iyengar.—

May I know how soon the toll gates will be abolished?

Second Member of Council.—

It is not possible to say.

Mr. B. Gopalachar.—

Do Government expect to derive an amount equivalent to the toll gate receipts by enhancing the license fee?

Second Member of Council.—

That is what the Government expect.

Mr. D. S. Mallappa.—

For what purpose is the income from petrol tax used?

Second Member of Council.—

For the improvement of trunk roads.

Mr. D. S. Mallappa.—

Is it not also necessary to provide for the improvement of the District Fund roads?

Second Member of Council.—

I have already answered that question. There is no intention, at present, of giving a portion of the petrol tax to

District Boards; but after we meet the needs of the State Fund roads, it might be possible to do something for the District Fund roads.

Mr. K. Venkataswamiah.—

Is it possible to reduce the existing tolls pending their abolition?

Second Member of Council.—

Not possible.

Rao Sahib M. Ramaswamy.—

Do you know that the Madras Government want to re-introduce the tolls since they have found the income from petrol tax too low?

Second Member of Council.—

I am not aware.

Rao Sahib M. Ramaswamy.—

Do you know that by enhancing the petrol tax, the car owners have been put to much trouble?

Second Member of Council.—

That is well known. But it is an all-India tax and we cannot do anything.

Rao Sahib M. Ramaswamy.—

As a result of the abolition of toll-gates, will not the income of the District Boards go down and their roads also suffer as a consequence?

Second Member of Council.—

We shall make an endeavour to compensate them for the loss.

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